



**Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
P.O. Box 308
Nashville, IN 47448
812-988-2211**

February 7, 2008

RE: Grant #6-CWI-302

State Conservation Soil Board

Dear Members,

First let us say thank you for extending our CWI grant so that we have a better chance of spending the appropriated funds. In 2008 we do have acres that are scheduled to be planted. However, the small amount of acreage will not use up very much of the allocated funds. At this time we have spent \$3,877.50 of the \$18,900.00 that was allocated to us for this grant. In 2008, we have approximately 33 acres that we expect to plant this spring. If the acreage stands at this amount, we will pay out about \$3,500. of the money we have left. That will leave around \$10,000. left to spend. Due to the qualifications by The Nature Conservancy, not all are qualified and we will have just the spring of 2009 to complete our plantings. Due to the state of our economy and those qualified landowners not coming forward, we fear we will not be able to spend the funds.

We would like to request advertising for this project, be paid for with the grant money. We realize we did not allocate it as such, but find that we need to contact individual landowners and hit it hard to find those that do qualify. We will have to get over 90 acres to plant in 2009 to get the money spent. We do not feel we will be able to accomplish this goal. Therefore, we are asking if we can use funds to pay for advertising our project and sending out letters to qualified landowners?

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. It will be with much disappointment if we must return money from this grant and hope that by using more funds to advertise we may be able to get more acres planted.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Closey
Chairperson Brown SWCD



APPLICATION FOR CWI GRANT
UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

#302

18,900
6

Use this form to apply for CWI Grants: Unique Partnership Program.
This application **MUST** be typed and **MUST** be submitted on this form or an identical copy.

1.	Name of Soil and Water Conservation District sponsoring project: Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District	
2.	Address of Soil and Water Conservation District (street, city, state, and ZIP code): P.O. Box 308 Nashville, IN 47448	
3.	Primary contact person (name, affiliation, address): Cathy Paradise, Coordinator Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District	Primary contact (telephone, FAX, E-mail): 812-988-2211 812-988-2769
4.	Persons responsible for preparing grant application: Cathy Paradise SWCD Dan Shaver Nature Conservancy	Telephone, FAX, e-mail of persons responsible for preparing grant application: 812-988-2211 812-988-0426
	Project Coordinator (name, affiliation, address): Cathy Paradise, Coordinator for Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District	Project Coordinator (telephone, FAX, e-mail): Same as above
6.	List additional organizations who will assist with this project: Nature Conservancy - Brown County Hills Project PO Box 1092 Nashville, IN 47448	
7.	List the contributions other organizations will make to this project. Technical assistance to landowners on tree plantings. Development of Tree Planting Plans. 20 year monitoring of tree planting easements	
8.	Project start date (month, date, year): July 1, 2006	Project end date (month, date, year): July 1, 2009
9.	Title of project: Corridors of Conservation : Reforestation to reconnect upland forest systems	
10.	Where is the project located? (county, region, watershed) What are the geographic characteristics of the project area? Corridors of Conservation will concentrate on reforestation efforts in Brown County, Indiana within the Salt Creek and Brown County portion of the Beanblossom Watershed. Geographically the project will focus on the restoration of bottomland forests in the Lower, Middle and Upper branches of Salt Creek and the Beanblossom Creek just upstream from Lake Lemon. Special attention will be paid to land that helps reconnect the forest system that used to stretch from ridgetop to ridgetop across bottomland hardwood areas. Currently many of the bottomland hardwood areas are in pasture or agricultural production creating a disconnect in the forest system.	
11.	Describe the project you are proposing. Corridors of Conservation aim to enhance the value and increase the implementation of existing USDA cost share programs to ensure enduring benefits for clean water, biodiversity, wildlife habitat and bottomland timber production. Corridors of Conservation will seek to acquire 20 year	

conservation easements from landowners who are reforesting their properties independently or through USDA or USF&W cost share programs to plant trees. If done independently there is no guarantee that landowners will keep their property reforested, or if the property changes hands the tree planting may be abandoned or converted back into agricultural land. The Corridors of Conservation program will put in place a 20 conservation easement that will be monitored annually by The Nature Conservancy to guarantee that planted tree will have at least 20 years to become established and permanently restore bottomland hardwood forests. The same is true of many USDA and USF&W cost share programs, they ensure that the trees are planted, but typically after 10 years there is no guarantee that the property will remain forested. Many times a 10 year old tree planting can be removed or developed without too much effort. Corridors of Conservation will buy another 10 years of protection allowing the trees to become well established.

Corridors of Conservation is proposing the purchase of conservation easements on reforested areas for a period of 20 years for \$225 per acre (\$11.25 per acre per year for 20 years). Following approved reforestation of the site by the State District Forester, The Nature Conservancy will sign a 20 year conservation easement with the landowner that prevents the landowner from doing any activities that adversely impact the health of the trees and allows The Nature Conservancy to inspect the tree at least once a year to ensure the easement is in force and has not been violated. Once the trees are planted and the conservation easement is signed, the landowners will be paid a flat fee of \$225 per acre (\$120 per acre from The Nature Conservancy and \$105 per acre from the Brown County Soil and Water).

12. What is the desired project outcome? (i.e. What do you hope to accomplish?)

The goal of Corridors of Conservation is to re-establish the majestic bottomland hardwood forests that once ran the length of creek systems in Brown County. The bottomland hardwood forests were some of the most productive and least sloped ground in Brown County. Along with the ridgetops these forest were quickly cleared to make way for homes, row crop agriculture and pasture. Unfortunately once the bottomland hardwood forests were cleared, many of the terrestrial bound vertebrate species such as the eastern box turtle, timber rattlesnake (State Endangered) and Kirtland's Snake (State Endangered) were less likely to move from one forested ridge system or valley to another. Water quality also suffered when row crop agriculture was practiced right up to the edge of 1st, 2nd and 3rd order streams in the area. Corridors of Conservation will strive to reforest and re-establish the forest that once connected one forested ridge system to another and create the habitat needed for the dispersal of terrestrial bound vertebrates through and along stream systems in the area. Over the initial 3 years of the project we would seek to reforest 180 acres of bottomland hardwood forest. The reforestation will be aimed at critical areas that link large blocks of contiguous forest, connect public land, border public land or provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. These reforestations will not only benefit terrestrial bound vertebrates, but also forest interior neo-tropical songbirds such as Louisiana Waterthrush and federally endangered species such as the Indiana Bat by creating forested riparian corridors.

13. How will the project impact the soil and water resources of the geographic area in which it is located?

Corridors of Conservation will directly impact the long-term health and quality of the Salt Creek and the Brown County portion of the Beanblossom Watershed by reforesting agricultural, pasture and abandoned land near and adjacent to Salt Creek, Beanblossom Creek and their tributaries. The reforestation of these lands will help slow, filter and absorb run-off, and protect and stabilize soil in the reforested areas. Reforestation has the added benefit of creating wildlife habitat, future timber resources and recreational areas for hunters, hikers, bird watchers and other outdoor enthusiasts.

14. Does this project address a short-term problem or a chronic/on-going problem which will require additional funding once grant funds are diminished? If the project is considered chronic/on-going, explain your plans for additional funding.

Corridors of Conservation enhances efforts already being pursued by USDA and USF&W agencies, but provides some economic incentives to landowners for the guarantee of long-term protection of our water resources. Three years of this program will not restore the bottomland hardwood forest in this area to their pre-settlement extent. However adding an additional 180 acres of bottomland hardwood forest in key corridors will go along way towards re-establishing dispersal routes for terrestrial bound vertebrates and creating habitat for threatened and endangered species. As an ongoing project Corridors for Conservation may find additional funding sources once the Watershed Management Plan for the Beanblossom Watershed is completed in the next year or two. Additional funding would allow the program to expand beyond the existing priority areas into the upper reaches of the watersheds.

15. Budget:

EXPENSE ITEM	TOTAL COST	CWI GRANT AMOUNT	50/50 CASH MATCH
Personnel			
Fringe Benefits			
Contractual	\$40,500	18,900	21,600
Travel			

Equipment			
Supplies			
Other			
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$40,500	18,900	21,600

Total CWI funds requested: \$18,900

50/50 Cash Match: \$21,600

Total Project Cost: \$40,500

List Sources of 50/50 Cash Match:

The Nature Conservancy in Indiana will provide \$21,600 in cash match or 53% of the funds for Corridors for Conservation. The Nature Conservancy as a not-for-profit conservation program will raise funds from donations by private and corporate donors.

Describe Equipment Needed:

All equipment will be provided by the landowners.

Describe Supplies Needed:

Seedlings.

February 15, 2008

Amy Eizinger
ISDA, Division of Soil Conservation
101 W. Ohio St. Suite 1200
Indianapolis IN 46204

Re: Clean Water Indiana Grant Project Amendment

Amy:

The Supervisors of the Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to request an amendment for our Incentive Partnership for Upland Habitat Buffers promotion, project #6-CWI-305. We would like to include other practices that include the planting of native grasses and create similar wildlife habitat.

Currently, the grant proposal is to have 100 acres enrolled in CRP CP 33 by July 31, 2008. Presently, 56.9 acres are going into contract and should be installed this spring. All CRP projects have to be under contract by March 15, 2008. No further applications will be accepted until the new Farm Bill is approved, making it impossible to add more acreage during the grant term. To reach the 100 acres, the SWCD would like to include filter strips, riparian buffers, and wetland restoration under CRP, and field borders, filter strips, and contour buffer strips in EQIP. These practices include planting warm season grasses, and would yield the same wildlife benefits as the upland habitat buffers.

The SWCD Supervisors feel that modifying the program to include these programs will allow us to reach our goal of 100 buffered acres, and achieve the outcome of limiting sediment and nutrient runoff into streams or other water bodies, and increase wildlife habitat.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Alan Weyer, Chair
Board of Supervisors,
Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District



APPLICATION FOR CWI GRANT
UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

5000

2

Use this form to apply for CWI Grants, Unique Partnership Program. This application MUST be typed and MUST be submitted on this form or an identical copy.			
1.	Name of Soil and Water Conservation District sponsoring project: Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District		
2.	Address of Soil and Water Conservation District (street, city, state, and ZIP code): 1486 Executive Blvd. Suite A Jasper IN 47546		
3.	<table border="1"><tr><td>Primary contact person (name, affiliation, address): Judi Brown Dubois County SWCD Executive Director 1486 Executive Blvd. Suite A Jasper IN 47546</td><td>Primary contact (telephone, FAX, E-mail): (812) 482-1171 Ext. 3 (812) 482-9427 judi.brown@in.nacdnet.net</td></tr></table>	Primary contact person (name, affiliation, address): Judi Brown Dubois County SWCD Executive Director 1486 Executive Blvd. Suite A Jasper IN 47546	Primary contact (telephone, FAX, E-mail): (812) 482-1171 Ext. 3 (812) 482-9427 judi.brown@in.nacdnet.net
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6.	List additional organizations who will assist with this project: Patoka Hills Quail Unlimited Chapter #323 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA Farm Service Agency		
7.	List the contributions other organizations will make to this project. Patoka Hills QU Chapter: \$3,000.00 cash, plus an in-kind match of warm season grass drills. QU members will provide seed, and will sow the warm season grasses, and will spray, if requested by the landowners. USDA Farm Service Agency: program assistance with CP-33 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: technical assistance		
8.	<table border="1"><tr><td>Project start date (month, date, year): 3-1-06</td><td>Project end date (month, date, year): 6-1-07</td></tr></table>	Project start date (month, date, year): 3-1-06	Project end date (month, date, year): 6-1-07
Project start date (month, date, year): 3-1-06	Project end date (month, date, year): 6-1-07		
9.	Title of project: Incentive Partnership for Upland Habitat Buffers		
10.	Where is the project located? (county, region, watershed) What are the geographic characteristics of the project area? The project will be located in Dubois County, in southwest Indiana. Most of the county lies within the Patoka River watershed. Dubois County is primarily rural, with 70% of the land in agriculture. The predominate soils are generally described as moderately to very slowly permeable, depending on the depth. The slow permeability creates high runoff potential and soil erosion. The landscape varies from flat cropland in the northwest corner of the county, to steep forested hills in the southeast corner of the county. The Patoka River meanders throughout the county, from the northeast corner to the southwest.		

11. Describe the project you are proposing.

The Dubois County SWCD will form a unique partnership with the Patoka Hills Quail Unlimited chapter and provide a \$100 incentive payment to encourage landowners to apply for CP33, and install habitat buffers for upland birds.

The Farm Service Agency's CP33 is a Continuous CRP practice directed primarily at improving bobwhite quail and other bird habitat. The purpose of the program is to reverse the long-term decline the bobwhite quail population has experienced by providing undisturbed nesting, brood rearing, and escape cover adjacent to cropland. Increased cover not only assists in increasing quail and bird populations, but also provides additional cover needed to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.

For the first time in Dubois County, the SWCD will form a partnership with Quail Unlimited and provide an incentive payment to encourage landowners to take advantage of CP33. The SWCD will commit \$2000 to the program, and Quail Unlimited will contribute \$3000. The SWCD is requesting a match of \$5000 from Clean Water funds, to total \$10,000 for this project. When interested landowners sign up for CP33, the SWCD will pay a \$100 sign up bonus payment. The goal for the project is to have 100 acres enrolled in the program by June 1, 2007. To maximize the number of applicants, each landowner will be limited to 10 acres, with the minimum acreage enrolled to be 1 acre.

Once the incentive sign up payment is provided, the landowner will be required to follow all requirements of the CRP program, including the installation of buffers around the edges of existing grain fields, and not utilizing the buffers as turn rows, lanes, or roads. The CP33 buffers are to provide quail, pheasants, and songbirds with an undisturbed area, which will be considered "year-round hands-off" from any farming operations. Other benefits to the landowner include a 50% cost share payment to install the buffer, a 1 time incentive payment of 40% of the 50% paid by the Farm Service Agency, the annual rental rate, which will range from \$65 to \$140, and a \$5 per acre annual maintenance fee. The average cost to install a buffer is \$150 per acre. Once the landowner is enrolled, they will receive the \$100 sign up bonus from the SWCD, plus roughly \$105 per acre from the FSA to install the buffer. They will also receive the annual rent plus the maintenance payment. The Farm Service Agency staff will provide oversight for the CP33 application process. Staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide any needed technical assistance.

Quail Unlimited will provide technical assistance in the installation of the buffer. QU members will transport the QU Chapter's warm season grass drill to the CP33 acres, and using a seed mix specially made for the program, will sow the buffers. They will also prepare the acres by spraying for weeds. The cost for the seed, and the service of transporting the drill and sowing the acres will be an estimated \$40/acre. The cost of drill use, approximately \$5/acre, will be an in-kind match for the program.

The Dubois County SWCD and Quail Unlimited staff will create flyers and other promotional materials to promote the program.

This project is innovative in Dubois County, and will be the first time a partnership will be formed with a group outside of the Conservation Partnership. Once this program is in place, additional partnerships will be formed with area organizations, such as the Dubois County Sportsman Club to expand the project.

We request that ½ of the CWI funds be provided at the outset of the project, with the remaining funds to be disbursed at the end.

12.	<p>What is the desired project outcome? (i.e. What do you hope to accomplish?)</p> <p>The goal is to have 100 acres enrolled in CP33 by June 1, 2007.</p> <p>The project will provide many benefits to Dubois County, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased bobwhite quail habitat, with the end result an increase in bobwhite quail. • Buffering crop fields, and limiting sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other contaminants from entering streams or other water bodies, thereby improving water quality. • Encourage increased acres enrolled in a program that is under-used in Dubois County • Cash benefits for local landowners, which can be used in other farming practices.
13.	<p>How will the project impact the soil and water resources of the geographic area in which it is located?</p> <p>The soil and water resources will be improved in the project area, in two primary ways. First, as previously mentioned, water quality will be improved by buffering the runoff off of cropped fields. Second, 100 fewer acres of land will be sown to crops each year, which will stabilize the soil in these areas.</p> <p>Dubois County has hilly terrain, and landowners attempt to maximize the amount of acres sown. In some cases, landowners are cropping the marginal acres, land better suited to grass or tree cover. Encouraging the use of buffers will allow landowners to receive a financial gain for not cropping sloping field edges. This will reduce the amount of marginal acres in crops, plus provide a buffer for the fields remaining in crop production. Reducing crop acres will reduce erosion, plus the buffer will improve water quality.</p>
14.	<p>Does this project address a short-term problem or a chronic/on-going problem which will require additional funding once grant funds are diminished? If the project is considered chronic/on-going, explain your plans for additional funding.</p> <p>This project addresses a problem that is on-going in Dubois County. This innovative partnership that has been created will remain in place, and is laying the groundwork for partnerships in the future with Quail Unlimited, and also with other community organizations. If future funding, other than Clean Water Indiana funds, is needed for this project all interested community organizations can provide funding to carry the project forward.</p>

15.	Budget:		
EXPENSE ITEM	TOTAL COST	CWI GRANT AMOUNT	50/50 CASH MATCH
Personnel			
Fringe Benefits			
Contractual	10,000	5,000	5,000
Travel			
Equipment	875		
Supplies	75		
Other			
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	10,950	5,000	5,000
<p>Total CWI funds requested: <u>\$5,000</u></p> <p>50/50 Cash Match: <u>\$5,000</u></p> <p>Total Project Cost: <u>\$10,950*</u> *includes in-kind expenses</p>			
<p>List Sources of 50/50 Cash Match:</p> <p>Duboís County Soil and Water Conservation District \$2000 Patoka Hills Quail Unlimited Chapter #323 \$3000</p>			
<p>Describe Equipment Needed:</p> <p>No-till warm season grass drills (Provided; In-kind: \$5/acre for 100 acres; \$500) Sprayer/4-Wheeler Copy Machine (Provided; In-kind: \$25/month for 15 months; \$375)</p>			
<p>Describe Supplies Needed:</p> <p>Warm season grass seed Herbicide Paper: copy paper, envelopes, etc (Provided; In-kind: \$25.00) Postage (Provided; In-kind: \$50)</p>			

A Proposal to the State Soil Conservation Board

From the Indiana League of RC&D Councils for the

Development and implementation of a website to support conservation training and dissemination as well as other resource areas of interest to the RC&D councils

The general approach to be used here is to provide a range of services to the RC&D councils in Indiana, the League, and to a variety of partners all of whom have the same goals. The on-line services are to be provided free of charge and the design of the site allows and encourages various entities to be able to do their own postings without going through a web programmer (with associated charges). It is believed that by providing these free services a general "grass roots" community can be constructed and maintained.

Features and Benefits

Standard Features

Supports various training and dissemination efforts through a self-subscription, allowing community member contributions

Events can be posted by the administrator

On-line registration capability can be connected to any event listed

Contact information for any partner can be posted by any user

Newsletters, articles, pictures, and other files can be posted by any user

- Builds a sense of involvement and broad group participation where all community members can contribute without technical website training
- Even small organizations are able to have a web presence; yet all postings are reviewed for appropriateness
- Registrations can be handled quickly and easily, and can be downloaded into a spreadsheet
- Responsibility for updated information is distributed across the community
- A variety of information can be shared and utilized by all users

Extra Features

A full calendar is maintained, allowing postings by any partner

Sub-administrators can manage their own registrations

Past posting of events, newsletters, public annual reports, pictures, and press releases are archived

A "What Works" posting area allows any partner or individual to post contributions

On login a user will be informed of any new postings since they last accessed the site

- Complete sorting is enabled along with a standard graphic display, pop-ups of event info, and on-line registration
- Immediate access to registration information is enabled
- Historical records of organizations are maintained and become easily accessible
- Good ideas are shared and effective approaches are quickly identified
- Users are immediately aware of new postings and are linked directly to that area of the website

A website with a variety of social networking features will be created that can be updated by the users and partner organizations without any intervention needed with the web programmer. The website will be addressable on the Internet and will appear in web search engines. As individual features (listed above) are programmed, they will be made available to the public, without having to wait for the whole project to be completed. Examples of websites the programmer has produced include www.excellentmath.org and www.eclc.uc.edu.

Security is maintained through the use of a username/password system. All postings are screened for viruses and other dangers by administrators. Postings are screened by the administrator for appropriateness before it is made live. Inappropriate material might be characterized as not being of any value to the intended audience, advertisements for products and services, or offensive material.

The overall design of the website will be clean and simple. It is likely a few iterations of the design will be needed to establish a final look. However, a rudimentary design can be immediately implemented and changes can be made even after the site is available to the public. The site itself can be used to solicit reactions and suggestions.

Cost

The features of the site are presented above as Standard Features and Extra Features. The cost of the completed website with all of the Standard Features along with the administrator management system and including the purchase of a domain name and server hosting costs for two years will be \$2,400. The Extra Features can be added at any time and would bring the cost to \$5,100. All additional costs will be assumed by the Indiana League: continued server space and any increase in server requirement, the cost/work needed to administer the site and make live any of the contributions from individuals and partners, and continued modification of the proposed site features upon receiving feedback from users.

The Standard Feature website can be made available with the registration and posting of events features in as little as two weeks from authorization. In an additional two weeks the posting of newsletters, etc. can also be implemented.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM REPORT 2-18-08

February 18, 2008

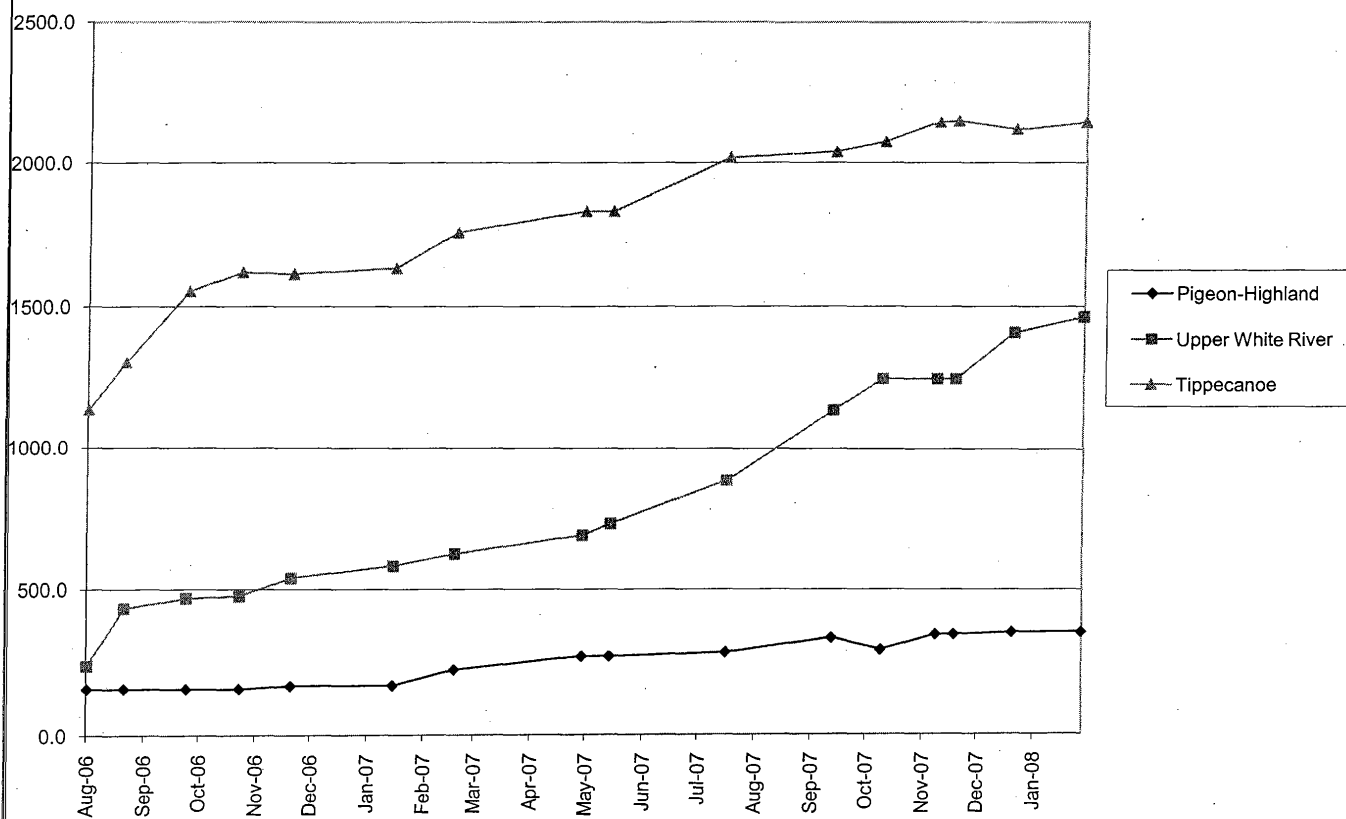
<u>Watersheds</u>	<u>Contracts</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Average Dollars/Acre</u>	<u>Obligated State Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Federal Leverage</u>
Tippecanoe River	307	2142.6	\$146.36	\$313,600.00	\$6,247,821.60
Upper White River	183	1463.2	\$459.65	\$672,555.00	\$4,266,691.20
Pigeon/Highland Rivers	88	353.2	\$194.14	\$68,570.00	\$1,029,931.20
TOTAL	578	3959	\$266.41	\$1,054,725.00	\$11,544,444.00

* Note: There are 60 additional contracts in the Tippecanoe Watershed, but no acres have been set.

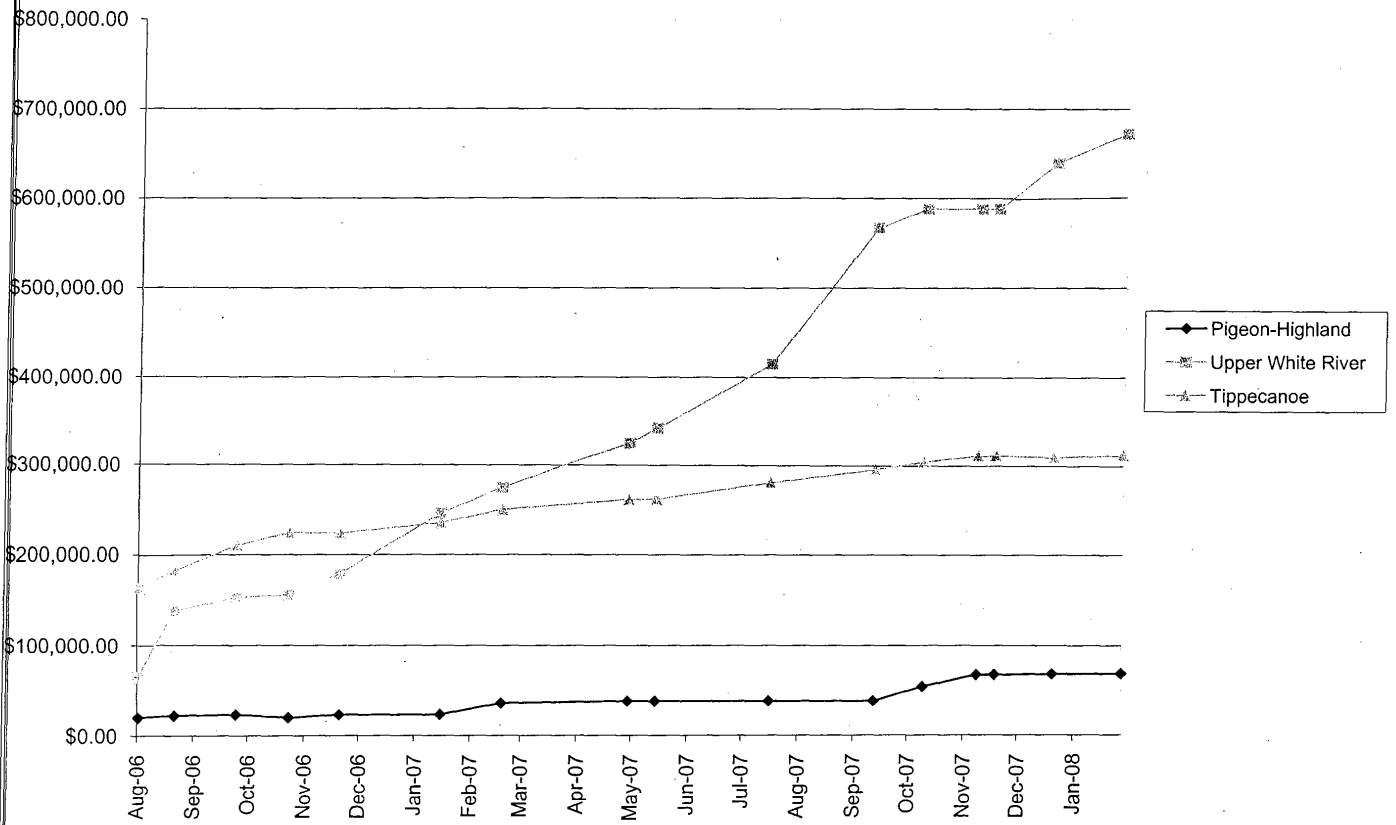
January 14, 2008

<u>Watersheds</u>	<u>Contracts</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Average Dollars/Acre</u>	<u>Obligated State Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Federal Leverage</u>
Tippecanoe River	362	2117.6	\$146.91	\$311,100.00	\$6,174,921.60
Upper White River	180	1408.7	\$454.01	\$639,560.00	\$4,107,769.20
Pigeon/Highland Rivers	87	351.7	\$194.34	\$68,350.00	\$1,025,557.20
TOTAL	629	3878	\$262.77	\$1,019,010.00	\$11,308,248.00

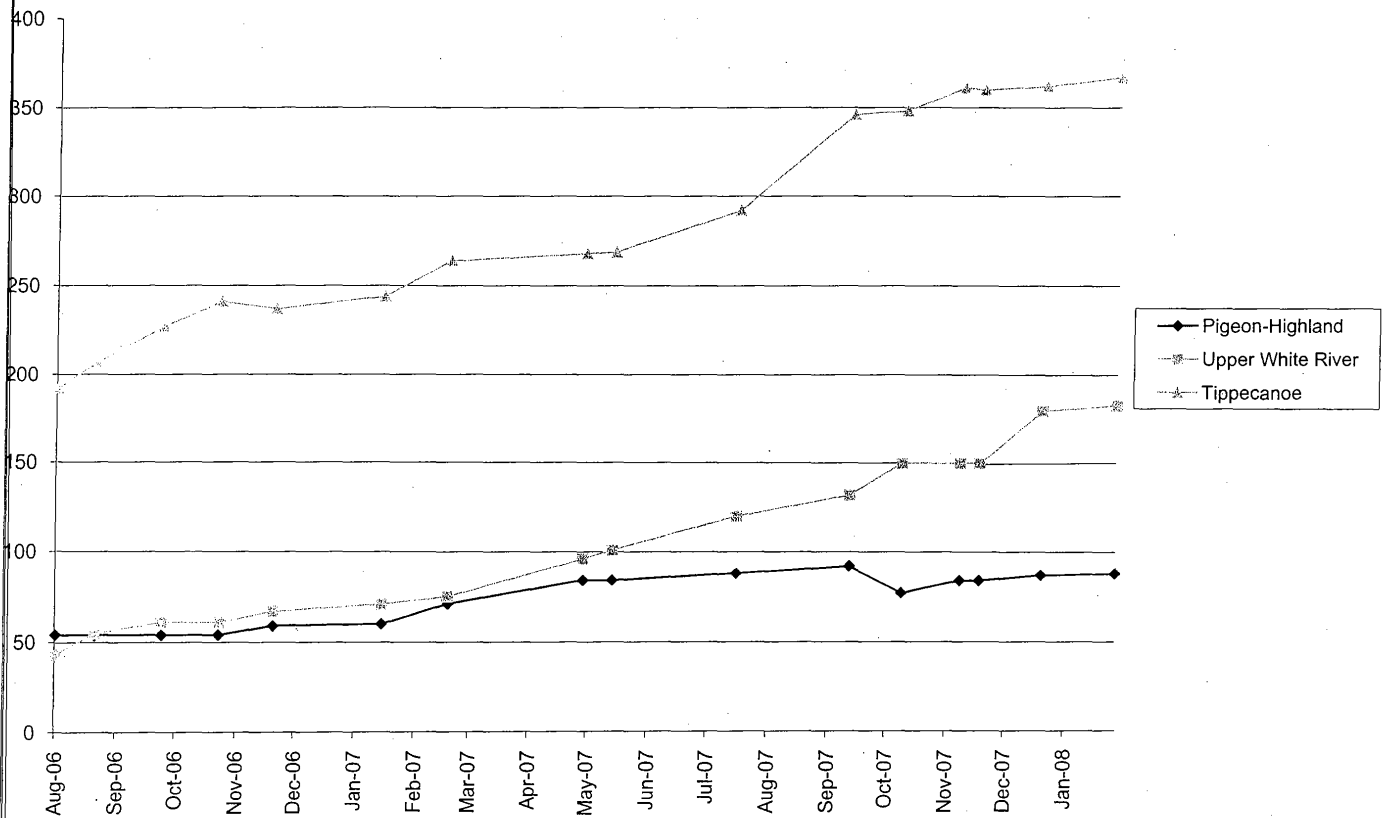
CREP Obligated Acres August 2006 - February 2008



CREP Obligated Funds August 2006 - February 2008



CREP Landowner Contracts August 2006 - February 2008



CREP Report - By County**2/18/2008****PIGEON HIGHLAND WATERSHED**

	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Gibson	57.3	\$5,800.00	\$167,086.80
Posey	57.9	\$14,010.00	\$168,836.40
Vanderburgh	161.2	\$38,500.00	\$470,059.20
Warrick	76.8	\$10,260.00	\$223,948.80
TOTAL	353.2	\$68,570.00	\$1,029,931.20

TIPPECANOE WATERSHED

	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Benton	2.6	\$260.00	\$7,581.60
Cass	47	\$17,600.00	\$137,052.00
Fulton	333.2	\$36,950.00	\$971,611.20
Jasper	97.7	\$19,880.00	\$284,893.20
Kosciusko	79.3	\$13,600.00	\$231,238.80
Marshall	45.5	\$4,760.00	\$132,678.00
Nobel	7.7	\$770.00	\$22,453.20
Pulaski	1098.8	\$150,600.00	\$3,204,100.80
Starke	219.2	\$29,750.00	\$639,187.20
White	196.1	\$37,730.00	\$571,827.60
Whitley	15.5	\$1,700.00	\$45,198.00
TOTAL	2142.6	\$313,600.00	\$6,247,821.60

UPPER WHITE WATERSHED

	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Boone	16.9	\$2,560.00	\$49,280.40
Delaware	183.8	\$51,085.00	\$535,960.80
Hamilton	367.8	\$192,725.00	\$1,072,504.80
Hendricks	49.1	\$9,110.00	\$143,175.60
Henry	11.1	\$1,110.00	\$32,367.60
Madison	603.9	\$361,100.00	\$1,760,972.40
Randolph	151.4	\$42,270.00	\$441,482.40
Tipton	79.2	\$12,595.00	\$230,947.20
TOTAL	1463.2	\$672,555.00	\$4,266,691.20

2008 Clean Water Grants

- 51 Counties applied for Sediment and Nutrient Reduction grants totaling \$465,970
- This year 82 Counties applied for CMIG, and there were 2 counties who applied for SNRG and not the CMIG (Dearborn and Putnam) therefore 84 different counties applied for CWI funds this year.
- There were 9 counties who applied for CWI grants in 2008 that had never applied for a CWI grant before.

Compare that with 2006 and 2007 CWI Grants

- In 2006 and 2007 there were 80 different counties that applied for CWI funds.
 - 63 counties applied in 07
 - 54 counties applied in 06
 - Of the 80 counties that applied for funding, 62 different counties were actually awarded CWI funds.
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**SSCB Meeting
February, 2008
NRCS State Conservationist Report**

Farm Bill Update

On Wednesday, December 26, 2007, the President signed into law H.R. 2764, the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008). The bill provides funding for NRCS programs and extends the 2002 Farm Bill until March 15, 2008. Everyone is working hard to pass a new Farm Bill prior to the March 15 deadline.

The Senate Agriculture Committee posted the Section-by-Section Comparison of the House Bill, Senate Amendment, and Current Law on their website at: <http://agriculture.senate.gov/> and click on "2007 Farm Bill Conference."

Fiscal Year 2009 Budget

The President's fiscal year 2009 budget was released on Monday, February 4, 2008. The NRCS budget proposes a reduction of over \$130 million in discretionary funding, including elimination of funding for Watershed Surveys and Planning, Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations, and the Resource Conservation and Development Program. Funding for many of the mandatory programs was not proposed pending passage of a new Farm Bill.

2008 NRCS Contribution Agreements

While proposals can be submitted at any time for Contribution Agreements, NRCS would like to request that proposals for fiscal year 2008 funding be submitted by **February 22nd**. Indiana has received their preliminary budget allocation, and would like to allocate dollars for these opportunities in early March. Please refer to the letter sent to all SWCDs dated January 2, 2007 for further details on materials that needs to be included with a proposal for work.

USDA Computer Security Training

For district employees utilizing a USDA Common Computing Environment (CCE), please remember that the annual Aglearn Computer Security Training must be completed by **March 31**.

Cooperative Working Agreements

Updated Cooperative Working Agreements have been mailed to all SWCDs for review and signature. The Indiana Conservation Partnership Leaders have all signed off on the updated agreements.

Environmental Stewardship Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 18th Annual Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP). The award recognizes outstanding stewardship practices and conservation achievements of U.S. cattle producers. ESAP was established in 1991 by NCBA and is made possible by the support of Dow AgroSciences, LLC, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Nominations can be submitted by any organization, group, or individual on behalf of a U.S. cattle producer. The deadline for 2008 ESAP nomination packet is March 14, 2008. Go to www.beefusa.org/esap, or contact NCBA's Washington, D.C., office to request a copy of the application at 202-347-0228.
